

CHAPTER 108
MINK, MUSKRAT, RACCOON, BADGER, OPOSSUM, WEASEL,
STRIPED SKUNK, FOX (RED AND GRAY), BEAVER, COYOTE, OTTER
AND SPOTTED SKUNK SEASONS

[Prior to 12/31/86, Conservation Commission[290] Ch 104]

571—108.1(481A) Mink, muskrat and weasel. Open season for the taking of mink, muskrat and weasel shall be from 8 a.m. on the first Saturday in November through January 31 of succeeding year. Entire state open. No bag or possession limit.

108.1(1) *Molesting or disturbing muskrat houses.* Any department of natural resources officer may permit trappers to molest or disturb muskrat houses on specific state game management areas as provided in Iowa Code section 481A.90, after finding that muskrats are causing excessive damage by destroying the vegetation essential to the welfare of a marsh and after so posting the area.

108.1(2) *Game management areas.* Open season for taking muskrats on certain state game management areas, certain federal national wildlife refuges, and certain county conservation board areas, only where approved by the natural resource commission and posted accordingly, shall be from 8 a.m. the last Saturday in February through April 15 of succeeding year. The use of leghold traps during this season is prohibited unless each trap is placed completely inside a muskrat house. No bag or possession limit.

571—108.2(481A) Raccoon, badger, opossum and striped skunk. Open season for the taking of raccoon, badger, opossum, and striped skunk shall be from 8 a.m. on the first Saturday in November through January 31 of succeeding year. Entire state open. No bag or possession limit.

571—108.3(481A) Red and gray fox. Open season for the taking of red and gray fox shall be from 8 a.m. on the first Saturday in November through January 31 of succeeding year. Entire state open. No bag or possession limit.

571—108.4(481A) Beaver. Open season for the taking of beaver shall be from 8 a.m. on the first Saturday in November through April 15 of succeeding year. No bag or possession limit.

571—108.5(481A) Coyote.

108.5(1) *Hunting.* Continuous open season. Entire state open. No bag or possession limit.

108.5(2) *Trapping.* Open season for trapping coyote shall be 8 a.m. on the first Saturday in November through January 31 of succeeding year. Entire state open. No bag or possession limit. Any conservation officer or wildlife biologist may authorize a landowner, tenant or designee to trap coyotes causing damage outside the established trapping season dates.

571—108.6(481A) Otter and spotted skunk. Continuous closed season.

571—108.7(481A) Trapping restrictions. Trapping for all furbearers will be restricted as follows:

108.7(1) *Exposed bait.* No person shall set or maintain any leghold, body-clasping trap, or snare within 20 feet of exposed bait on land anywhere in the state or over water in the following areas:

a. Mississippi River corridor—Allamakee, Clayton, Dubuque, Jackson, Clinton, Scott, Muscatine, Louisa, Des Moines and Lee Counties.

b. Missouri River corridor—Those portions of Woodbury, Monona, Harrison, Pottawattamie, Mills and Fremont Counties west of Interstate 29.

c. Des Moines River corridor—Boone, Dallas, Polk, Marion, Mahaska, Wapello and Van Buren Counties.

Exposed bait means meat or viscera of any animal, bird, fish, amphibian, or reptile with or without skin, hide, or feathers visible to soaring birds.

108.7(2) *Trapping near beaver lodges and dens.* There will be no trapping within ten yards of active or inactive beaver lodges or dens in certain areas described as those portions of the Cedar River and Indian Creek floodplains enclosed by Highways 30, 151, Business 151 and I-380 in Linn County.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 481A.6, 481A.38, 481A.39, 481A.87, and 481A.90.

These rules are based on the best biological data available as determined by research conducted by the department of natural resources.

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